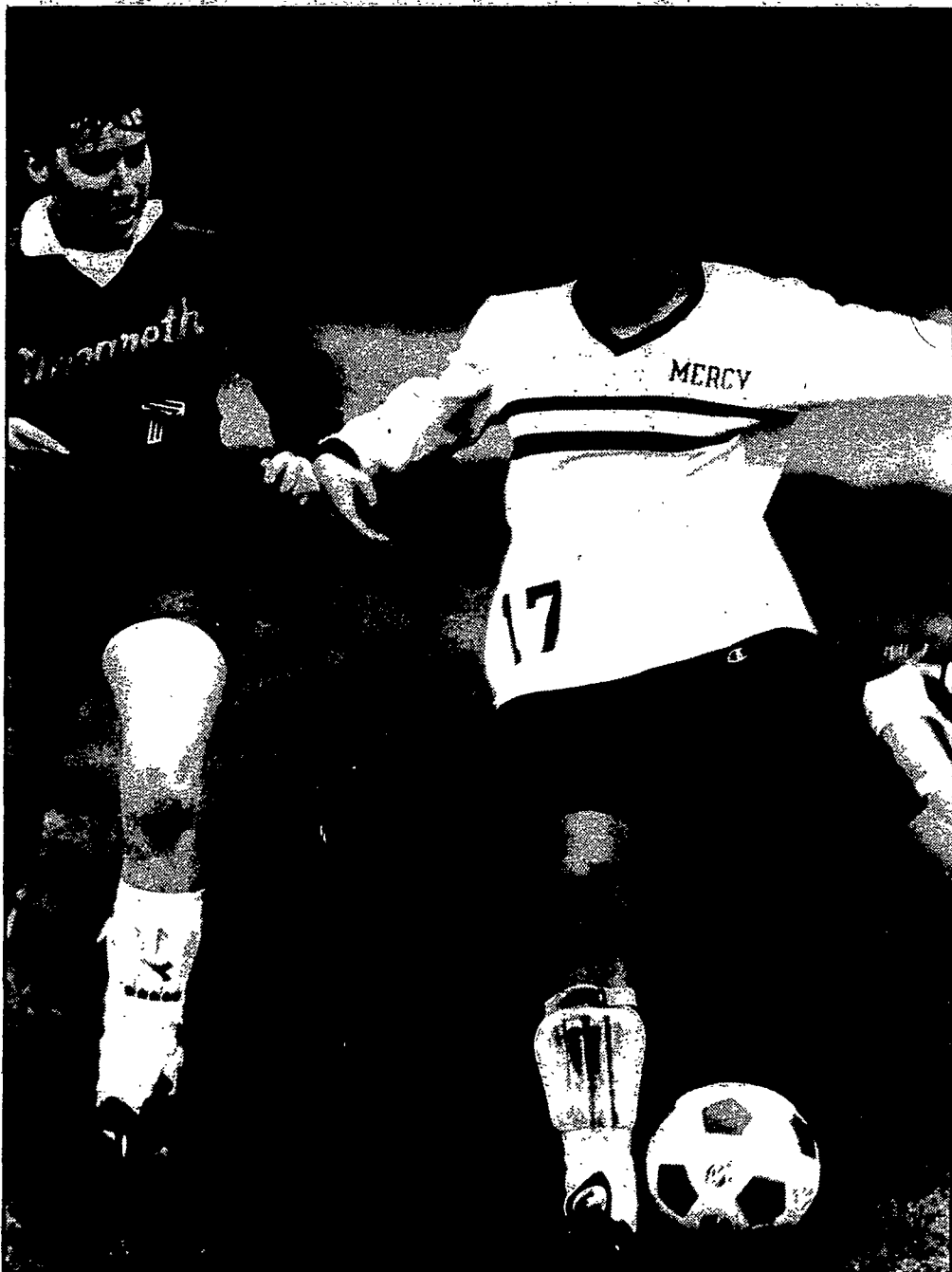


Mooney gains early edge for Private-Parochial League title



Nazareth Academy's Kathleen Ryan (7) tries to get in front of a shot by Our Lady of Mercy's Julie Buntich during the second half of a 3-3 tie between the two Private-Parochial League foes.

By Richard A. Kiley

Cardinal Mooney last week gained the inside track on regaining the Private-Parochial League title it lost to Our Lady of Mercy last season, and the Monarchs lost a player head coach Kathy Boughton was counting on in the process.

Mooney (6-0-3) got two late goals from Gia Cucinelli to propel the Cards to a 2-1, come-from-behind win over Mercy (4-3-1) on Tuesday, Sept. 27.

Both goals for Cucinelli, who was last year's leading scorer, were from directly in front of the Mercy goal.

Sweeper Joan Graham, who played on this year's Western Team at the Empire State Games, kept the game from becoming tied in the waning moments when she cleared the ball away from Mooney's goal line with two minutes left.

Holly Sims' goal at about 30 minutes remaining in the second half had given Mercy a 1-0 advantage. The loss proved even more costly for the Monarchs when Mercy stopper Bernadette Fagan suffered a knee injury and had to be carried from the field. The extent of the injury has not been determined.

In other Private-Parochial League action from last week, the Cards beat Aquinas, 2-0, on goals by Cucinelli and Lisa Messuro.

Mooney also played to a 0-0 tie — its second scoreless tie of the season — against Greece Olympia in its other game last week. No one could score against Olympia despite 50 shots on goal by the Cards.

Morrison and his team received a serious blow two weeks ago when senior stopper Margie McGuire damaged ligaments in her knee. McGuire will undergo rehabilitation to try and get the knee ready for the girls' basketball season, but is definitely gone for the duration of the soccer season.

"She's my captain, one of my best defenders but more importantly she's just a good kid," said Morrison, who also coaches girls' basketball at Mooney. "This is really tough with it being her senior year."

Despite the loss of McGuire and his team's lack of scoring punch at times, Morrison is content with where his Cards are at this stage of the season.

"Offensively we're coming around; we're averaging almost two goals a game," said Morrison, whose team has scored 17 goals and giv-

en up a miserly three. "The win over Mercy really boosted them up, and they're looking forward to the second half (of the season)."

Mercy rebounded from the loss to Mooney by playing to a 3-3 tie against Nazareth on Thursday, Sept. 29, and drubbing Palmyra-Macedon, 5-0, on Saturday, Oct. 1. Against Pal-Mac, Julie Buntich scored two goals to go along with two assists. Buntich also had a goal against Dick Hendrick's Nazareth team (0-3-1).

Aquinas improved its overall mark to .500 for the season with a 2-1, non-league win against Marion on Friday, Sept. 30. Kathy Thies scored the game-winning goal to propel Greg McMaster's Little Irish.

First-year coach Leo Teerlinck has Bishop Kearney back on the winning track after a tough 2-0 loss to Mooney two weeks ago. Two goals in each half from Gretchen Eisenhauer gave the Kings a 2-1 win over Nazareth on Tuesday, Sept. 27.

In a non-league game against Wayne on Saturday, Oct. 1, Kris Laboski, Stephanie Fame and Eisenhauer each scored as the Kings won 3-0.

OVER IN CLASS C, Mike Rood's Geneva DeSales team is winless in nine games. The Saints (0-8-1) have shown marked improvement, however, in recent contests against Sodus, Harley-Allendale Columbia and Red Jacket.

"We're a young team and we're also the smallest school in our division," said Rood, who has just 17 players to do battle with such bigger Finger Lakes West teams as Naples, Bloomfield and Honeoye all season.

Rood and assistant coach Chris Wood have also been experimenting with different front-line and back-line combinations, making it difficult to achieve the cohesive play that is necessary to win in soccer.

Rood is still optimistic that his Saints could play the role of spoiler during the second half of the season.

"We see four teams in our division that are definitely beatable the second time around the schedule," he said.

One of those teams is South Seneca, which DeSales played to a 1-1 tie back on September 16.

Continued on Page 14

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